

FOR NATIONAL PHASE SUBMISSION

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method-A method~~ for mounting at least one contact pin-(5) on a sleeve-(1), ~~in particular a plastic sleeve,~~ into which a piezoelectric element-(8) is inserted, whereby comprising the steps of:

~~- providing~~ at least one pin mount-(2) ~~is provided~~ on the outer circumference at the upper and/or lower end of the sleeve-(4) for the contact pin-(5), and whereby

~~- connecting~~ the contact pin-(5) ~~is connected~~ electrically by way of one or more contact wires-(6) to the piezoelectric element-(8), ~~characterized in that~~wherein the pin mount-(2) is provided in the form of a detent connection, whereby and the detent connection is implemented such that the contact pin-(5) is fixed in its position after insertion into the detent connection-(2).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method-A method as claimed in accordance to claim 1, characterized in that~~wherein an upper pin mount-(2) is provided on the outer edge of the sleeve-(1) and ~~that~~ the upper pin mount-(2) has a wedge-shaped insertion aid-(2a) by means of which the contact pin-(5) can be inserted sideways into the pin mount-(2) to lock into position.

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3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the a lower pin mount-(2) has a support~~
~~(4a) and that the support-(4a) secures the contact pin-(5)~~
against pressure from above.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the a lower pin mount-(2) has a guide~~
aid-(4) by means of which the contact pin-(5) can be inserted
sideways into the sleeve-(1).

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the a lower pin mount-(2) has an~~
arresting element-(3), which preferably takes the form of a
burl and thereby prevents the lower end of the contact pin-(5)
from falling out of the guide aid-(4).

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the detent connection-(2) for the~~
contact pin-(5) is designed to be releasable.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
~~wherein Method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that the detent connection-(2) for the~~
contact pin-(5) is designed to be non-releasable.

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8. (Currently Amended) A sleeve for accommodating a piezoelectric element-(8), whereby wherein the piezoelectric element-(8) is mounted inside the sleeve-(1), characterized in that and two contact pins-(5) lying opposite one another are arranged on the outer circumference of the sleeve-(1) parallel to the longitudinal axis in respective pin mounts, which wherein the contact pins are connected electrically by means of a plurality of contact wires-(6) to a piezoelectric element-(8) situated in the sleeve-(1), as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein the sleeve-(1) has two pin mounts-(2) in each case at its upper and its lower end faces-(10), respectively for fixing the two contact pins-(5) and that the pin mounts-(2) take the form of detent connections.

9. (Currently Amended) Sleeve A sleeve as claimed in according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein the detent connections-(2) of the sleeve-(1) have a wedge-shaped insertion aid-(2a) and/or guide aid-(4) by means of which the contact pin-(5) can be inserted sideways.

10. (Currently Amended) A sleeve according to claim 8, wherein sleeve as claimed in one of claims 8 or 9, characterized in that the sleeve-(1) is designed as a single part and as a plastic sleeve.

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11. (Currently Amended) ~~Piezoelectric~~ A piezoelectric actuator for controlling a valve unit of a fuel injector ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the piezoelectric actuator ~~(11)~~ has a piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ which is surrounded by a plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~and whereby~~ the piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ is connected by way of contact wires ~~(6)~~ to two contact pins ~~(5)~~ which are arranged at the outer edge of the plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~characterized in that and wherein~~ the plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~ is formed as a one-piece hollow body and that on an upper and a lower end face ~~(10)~~ the plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~ has integrated detent connections ~~(2)~~ by means of which the contact pins ~~(5)~~ ~~can are be~~ fixed in their position.

12. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein an upper pin mount is provided on the outer edge of the sleeve and the upper pin mount has a wedge-shaped insertion aid by means of which the contact pin can be inserted sideways into the pin mount to lock into position.

13. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein a lower pin mount has a support and the support secures the contact pin against pressure from above.

14. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein a lower pin mount has a guide aid by means of which the contact pin can be inserted sideways into the sleeve.

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15. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein a lower pin mount has an arresting element, which preferably takes the form of a burl and thereby prevents the lower end of the contact pin from falling out of the guide aid.

16. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein the detent connection for the contact pin is designed to be releasable.

17. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein the detent connections for the contact pin are designed to be non-releasable.

18. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein, the sleeve is a plastic sleeve.